

The Essence of Love-Elements in Marital Commitments, and The Ordained Mixtures of Essential Tranquillity

Dr.Mrs.P.J.JEBA REGIS

Assistant Professor of English, Sarah Tucker College, Tirunelveli

Abstract

Science and Technology has created a stir in media and lifestyle. The trends and the acclaimed presence of imposed perfection has detached the family from the happy environs of a loving home. The demands of the workplace, has replaced the need of family, and a loving atmosphere; however it is an ever present need in society. The paper reflects the needed elements of wedded life. It is a rendering of elements that can contribute to the perfection, and flavoured perspective of marriage. The image of a loving family is a solemn portrayal of beauty, unparalleled in excellence. The paper discusses aspects pertaining to loyalty and love. It also incorporates incidents to briefly discuss the elements contributing to mixed feelings. The paper attempts to rediscover and invite traditional and yet controversial speculation of the image of the Creator and His views in wedded life.

The society seeks providential intervention; especially in the institution of marriage. Family counsellors Peter and Sally opine about the perspective of long term marital relationships,

Commitment enables two people to get to know each other and to work through life's difficulties when they face them. If you don't have commitment, you are going to find a way out of the marriage relationship. Today it is easier to get out of marriage than to get out of clubs, churches and jobs and addictions. One reason why we have lost romance in our relationships is we do not practice it in everyday life. (Peter 1)

As the counselor discusses, the reality of today's marital relationship is obvious: it is crumbling.

'Love' is symbolic. When couples walk hand in hand, they portray the picture of perfect happiness. Thomas avers, "Communication between partners prevents misunderstanding. It is a constructive habit to discuss problems in an attitude of love" (39). 'Hope' presents itself when couples cherish their times of conversation and togetherness. The Holy Bible states that "Charity (love) suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not ... seeketh not her own" (1 Cor. 13:4). This reflects the state of endurance the loving God has purposed in His heart for His children. The need of today is the abundance of unselfishness, where selfless tasks are performed with much vigor, and patience is delicately embedded to fulfil the needs of the spouse. Kindsvatter observes,

Bowlby (1988), in discussing the therapeutic environment necessary for addressing attachment concerns, noted the importance of counselors providing a secure base from which clients can

explore attachment issues. Specifically, he indicated that, in constructing the therapeutic environment, the counsellor accepts and respects his patient, warts and all, as a fellow human being in trouble, [and]... the therapist strives to be reliable, attentive, empathic and sympathetically responsive' (p. 172). (3)

'The marital connection help create an identity where they "can explore attachment issues" and create an "emotional connection with family members" (Kindsvatter 3). In the case of couples who need therapeutic treatment, psychiatrists and family counselors provide valuable support. As verses recommend, true love keeps the needs of the spouse above one's own. Tripp discusses: "Love is willing self-sacrifice for the good of another that does not require reciprocation or that the person being loved is deserving" (189); bearing this in mind it is essential to add a few perspectives on togetherness.

Togetherness as the Holy Bible describes is the holy union of man and woman. In the life of spouses love is tested. However, Nagaswami avers: "when in love, we temporarily take leave of our senses. We suspend rational judgment, we are fearless and we think only positive thoughts" (3). Considering the view of love it is essential to understand that when favor has been poured there is ample space for a healthy relationship between husband and wife. Love in the marital relationship extends to "physical" (Peter 8) union. Peter also observes: "we should note that physical sharing cannot reach its ultimate fullness unless it is experienced while conscious of God's warm and tender mercies (Eph. 5:25-33). Marital "union can happen because of lust, but God wants it to happen because of love. God loves purity" (Peter 8). The need to

understand this aspect stems from the abundant grace the loving Lord God has promised for His children; with faith in God, love would be a life lived in a tranquil milieu.

As the Holy Bible states: "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16); responding to the call of sacrifice on one's part means to forsake the love of all things, whether it may be the love of worldly pleasures or the love of oneself as Tripp describes as "self-love" (171). He writes:

It is self-love that makes you more committed to what you understand than to understanding your spouse. It is self-love that causes you not to listen well. It is self-love that makes you unwilling to wait until you are sure that you have understood your spouse. It is self-love that keeps you from viewing your spouse's words, perspectives, desires and opinions as valuable. It is self-love that fills your brain so full of what you think and know that you have little room for your spouse's thoughts. It is self-love that makes you value your own way more than you value real functional understanding existing between you and your mate. (171)

It is 'self-love' that prevents couples from fulfilling the ultimate purpose of marital commitment: to build relationships meant to last for a lifetime. Thomas recommends: "God's nearness always gives strength and patience" (39). Quite a bit of time continues itself to materialize into a relationship worth defining, but there is hope when a deeper and more satisfying love is established.

It is the realization of inner strength and peace that adds beauty to a marital relationship. The plight of the working woman is also the plight of the housewife. The working woman is expected to meet the needs of the family, and by taking the role of housewife she presents a representative role, where she "lives day after day between four walls, providing for her family, cooking, laundering, cleaning, mending, scrubbing, nursing, going from shop to shop to make the money spin out" (Johnson 25). The mother and wife is happy, for her work for her family is also in the kitchen; for the mother who cares and loves, it "will be a pleasure rather than drudgery" (Johnson 25). She represents the woman of creative strength and vigour. As ascribed above marriages made in heaven are purposed to fulfil the plan sketched by the Maker. In this brief period there will be times of happiness, sadness, loneliness, abandonment, refreshment, hope, joy, grief and blessing. It is the perspective of understanding that helps people

resolve their differences in trying circumstances. There are times when she may find herself exhausted, but the husband who loves and cares would help with glee and happiness. The working man is destined to create a representation of responsibilities. The duties of a father, the matrimonial love of a husband, and the destined love of a tranquil atmosphere at home, where only he can create is representative of the roles he bears.

Materialism has a huge impact and dramatic influence on the selection of spouses, it is a wonder to perceive values and receive a true understanding of acquiring a godly life partner. The right to vote is similar to the stance that the society takes in selecting the right life partner for the daughter/son. As perceived earlier, ethics and values are derived from inspiration from their faith in a loving God, and it is their faith that enables them to stand strong. The rising incidents of flood, famine, landslides and other natural phenomena give glimpses of environmental phenomena; life in the family would also reciprocate the reflection of a similar reality. The never ending news of wars portray the physical challenges and the 'emotional' difficulty of "loss" (Goldberg 237), for instance the death of a family member stirs to believe in a passive milieu. Gumbel avers, "Behind God's law is the desire of a loving God to create a society in which it would be a joy to live" (85). Researchers and family counselors prioritize the need to awaken families who are in need of help; there is assurance for assistance by the government and social welfare organizations for families who are desperate to survive catastrophes, like 'loss' and "separation" (Curtis 2). In marriage, where 'hope' and 'forgiveness' is emphasised by experts as the foundation of lasting relationships, errors are considered forgiven and forgotten in the light of God's love; the 'love' of a 'loving' Father who has given his life to redeem the life of His children. Girls have hopes and dreams of a happy story; of a prince charming coming on a horse and being everything to her that 'love' portrays; in the cartoons and images, in the world of illusions. The illusion deceives but as time passes the need to start a life based on experiences and love dramatizes a real life of love.

Trouble strikes at home and people are influenced to seek 'Love', beyond the borders of their setting, 'Love' as in the love presented on Television. 'Dreams come True' (Walt Disney) is the hope of every girl, Experts state that men are valued by their 'physical' strength and women for their 'mental' strength. Man's 'physical' strength and woman's 'mental' strength when united in marriage and ordained by the loving Creator brings together a home established in the perspective of these verses taken from

biblical scripture; where a woman's wisdom is brought to the light, "a wise woman buildeth her house" (Prov. 14:1), and a man's strength is represented through the following line, "the strength of an ox has much gain (Prov. 14:4). It is this realistic portraiture of man and woman that provides insight on inherent differences. As biblical scripture portrays in the book of Genesis, God took Eve, the woman from Adam's rib. The missing rib from Adam's side presents the idea of the equal. This is the loving Creator's plan for His children, and man's strength is made whole when he is joined with his wife. Her 'mental' strength perfects him, and together as Biblical scripture explains, their weakness is made complete with the Maker's help.

The individual child born out of wedlock in America is cared for, either by single parents or foster parents. If the child is deprived of the care of parents he/she becomes the ward of the state. In India, the scenario is quite disheartening. An indirect interview explores the milieu of the evaluation of marital struggle in: a young boy Praveen (name changed) is born out of wedlock and is left to fend for himself. The boy's mother lives with another man and has three daughters by him. When asked about his mother Praveen becomes sad. He holds a grudge against her. The reason: he blames her for his social position in society, and is ashamed to have any ties with her. He has anger issues and is unable to keep a job. He is dejected and seeks a family with whom he can have model relationships. However, Praveen's mother seeks her son's presence in the family and longs to have ties with him. There are many children like Praveen who have left home out of embarrassment. The marital disconnection causes a strain in his "internal working model" (Holmes 221). Praveen longs for shelter and a loving family. There are success stories of children born out of wedlock. A well-known speaker and Christian preacher Stira writes in his book that he does not know his parents. As Stira writes, he was exposed to 'physical' and 'emotional' pain in the hostel where he grew up. Out of depression he had tried to kill himself more than five hundred times. God's intervening hand saves him. Praveen and Stira, under analysis and observation of attachment theory and secondary sources may have been patients of the 'Borderline Personality Disorder'. Due to the conflicts raging in the mind and soul of Praveen and Stira, the depression can be attributed to BPD.

The researcher encounters a divine inspirational real life story; it is the story of Naomi (name changed). With the death of her mother, Naomi is raised by her mother's close relatives. She is refused to be surrendered to her father out

of concern, but as she grew older, she became a burden to her relatives. At age sixteen she was married off to an aged man who practiced polygamy. In the moment of dejection and utter hopelessness, she was on the verge of ending her life along with her children. However, the compassionate intervention of Jesus Christ saves her and now she is free from financial worries, depression and is blessed with divine peace. Her two children are grown children, well placed in jobs and firm in their faith and love for Jesus Christ. Naomi is also a minister of God, interceding for girls and women who are traumatized under similar circumstances. She also preaches at Christian churches. The lives of Praveen, Stira and Naomi are the lives of people born under difficult circumstances; with peace, happiness and hope, their lives have changed.

In an event organized for couples at Kanyakumari, Tamil Nadu, India, family counselors Peter and Sally from FACT (Family Assistance thro' Counseling & Training, Pondicherry) enlightened the crowd about the inherent differences between man and woman. They commented that a man's brain is compared to the traditional South Indian food — 'Idlies'; they added that men can perform duties one by one, unlike women whose brains are like 'Noodles' tuned to function multi-purpose tasks. Their brain is compared to 'Noodles', and in the words of Farrel, it is called "Spaghetti" (13). The couples in the event understood the significant differences. These concepts provide significant insights on the inherent duties imposed upon men and women by the Creator and the requirements they are indebted to fulfil in their everyday life. In short, it is productive to state that a positive perspective towards healthy attachment patterns manifests in a future kindled by love.

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